Jl S. Afr. Bot. 36 (4): 267–270 (1970)

TAXONOMIC NOTES ON ERICA

H. A. Baker

Abstract

A new species of Erica, *E. turrisbabylonica* H. A. Baker and a new variety, *E. aristata* Andr. var. *turrisbabylonica* H. A. Baker, are proposed. *Erica ionii* H. A. Baker is considered synonymous with *E. manifesta* Compton.

Samevatting

TAKSONOMIESE AANTEKENINGE OOR ERICA. 'n Nuwe Erica soort, *E. turrisbabylonica* H. A. Baker en 'n nuwe variëteit, *E. aristata* Andr. var. *turrisbabylonica* H. A. Baker word voorgestel. *E. ionii* H. A. Baker word as 'n synoniem van *E. manifesta* Compton geag.

Erica turrisbabylonica H. A. Baker, sp. nov., (Ericaceae-Ericoideae) *Callista*.

Frutex erectus, subvirgatus ad 30 cm altus. *Rami* juniores villosi, glabrescentes. *Folia* 4—nata, 4—7 mm longa, erectopatentia, initio imbricata demum internodia foliis longiora, liniaria, subulata, acutata, sulcata, sparsum hirta vel glabra, ciliata piliis albis, tenuibus, longiusculis. *Flores* laterales, solitarii; pedunculati circa 11 mm longi, villosi; bracteae 2, 4—5 mm longae, medianae, foliaceae. *Sepala* 6—8 mm longa, aliquantum variabilies, plerumque foliacea sed interdum basibus ovatis et scarioso marginatis. *Tubus corollae* c. 1·6 cm longus, initio anguste tubulatus, circum antherae leviter inflatus, e basi varie inflatescens et, post maturitatem aspectu tubulo ampullaceus, siccus, breviter et copiosus hispidus, primo viridis, rubropurpurescens; lobi c. 7 mm longi, 3 mm lati, stellatopatentes, ovati, acuti, basibus angustibus extus rubropurpurei, intus indumento albo. *Filamenta* gracilia, sigmoidea; antherae inclusae, minus quam 1 mm longae, laterales, oblongae, obtusae, muticae; poro fere dimidio pars lobi. *Ovarium* elongatum, glabrum; stylus manifestus; stigma capitatum.

Erect subvirgate shrub to about 30 cm in height. *Branches* villous-pubescent at first, glabrescent. *Leaves* 4—nate, 4—7 mm long, erect-spreading, imbricate at first, later the internodes much longer than the leaves, linear-subulate, acute, sulcate, glabrous or sparsely hairy, ciliate with longish, fine white hairs. *Flowers* solitary in the leaf axils; peduncles about 11 mm long, villous-pubescent; bracts 2, about 4—5 mm long, median, foliaceous. *Sepals* about 8 mm long, somewhat variable in shape, mostly foliaceous but some with a small ovate,

---

Accepted for publication 15th April, 1970.

scarious-edged base. *Corolla-tube* about 1·6 cm long, at first narrow-tubular and slightly inflated at the throat, gradually becoming inflated below in varying degrees and appearing tubular-ampullaceous after maturity, dry, minutely but copiosely hispid, at first green, becoming purplish-red; lobes 7 mm long × 3 mm wide, stellately spreading at maturity, ovate acute with a narrow but not imbricating base, coloured outside as corolla-tube, inside with a white indumentum. *Filaments* slender, sigmoid near the apex; anthers included, less than 1 mm long, lateral, oblong, obtuse, muticous; pore about half the length of the cell. *Ovary* elongate, glabrous; style manifest; stigma capitate.

CAPE—3419 (Caledon): Marshes and wet rocky places on the Southern slopes of Babylon's Tower mountain c.610—1066 m (—AD), December 1969, *W. P. U. Jackson* s.n. (BOL 30663 holotype; isotypes NBG, PRE, STE).

Erica turrisbabylonica appears at first sight to be a typical member of the section *Callista* resembling *E. fastigiata* L. var. *coventryana* Bolus or *E.lawsonia* Andr. but, on closer inspection, is found to differ therefrom in several important respects and also from the definition of the section *Callista* in *Flora Capensis*. This postulates terminal flowers on very short peduncles with approximate bracts (presumably 3 as in all the specimens described). The species here described must, therefore, be considered to be an exception in this section for it will not fit into any other.

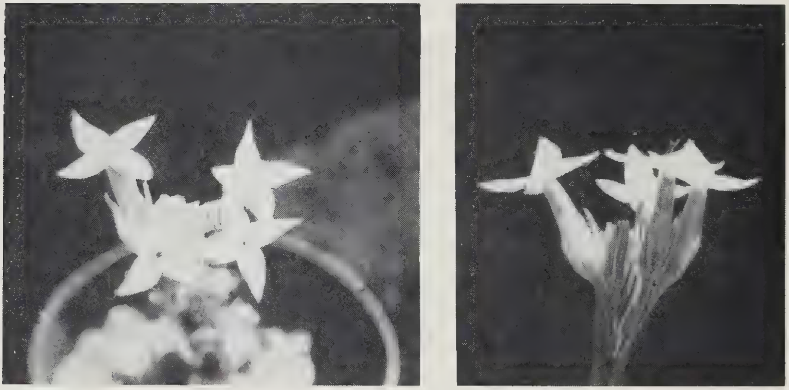

FIG. 1. *Erica turrisbabylonica* H. A. Baker.
View from above and side view of flowers, approx. life-size.

Geographically the species appears to be confined to the range of mountains known as Babylon's Tower where it grows in abundant colonies in the numerous kloofs on the southern slopes in marshy places. Here the plants are slender but it also grows in wet, rocky places where the plants are much more woody and spreading. This range is separated from the Klein River Mts. to the South, on which grows *E. fastigiata* var. *coventryana*, by a valley some 4 miles wide.

The species was first collected in January 1969 when mostly past its prime by Dr. L. Vogelpoel who brought it to the notice of the author and also in December 1969 by Dr. W. P. U. Jackson, whose collection forms the type material.

Erica aristata Andrews var. **turrisbabylonica** H. A. Baker var. nov.

A forma typica ita differt; *Folia* plerumque 4—nata, interdum verticillata. *Flores* umbellatae, 1—5 varians. *Corolla* ad maturitatem maxime inflata, rubrorosea, venis rubris inconspicius; tubus 2·1 cm longus parvilobis 1·25 mm longis, late ovatis, obtusis, ad apices involutis et aliquantum fimbriatis sed non retusis. *Ovarium* anguste obovatum, longistipitatum.

Like the type except; *Leaves* mostly 4—nate, sometimes irregularly whorled. *Flowers* in umbels of 1—5 flowers. *Corolla* very much inflated at maturity, rose-red with inconspicuous veins; tube 2·1 cm long with small lobes 1·25 mm long, broad-ovate, obtuse, at the apices involute and somewhat fimbriate but not retuse. *Ovary* narrow-obovate, long-stipitate.

Flowering season, January to March.

CAPE—3419 (Caledon): Wet places on the Southern slopes of Babylon's Tower mountain c. 610—1066 m (—AD), January 1969 *L. Vogelpoel* s.n. (BOL 30673 holotype; isotypes NBG, PRE, STE); same locality, March 1939, *Stokoe* 9607 (BOL, NBG) and s.n. sub SAM 53663 (SAM); March 1939, *C. Thorne* s.n. sub SAM 53678 (SAM); 26 Feb. 1941, *Esterhuysen* 4961 (BOL, NBG). All the specimens cited have been examined by the author.

This variety is not so strikingly beautiful as that from which the species is named because the veins are less conspicuous against the darker corolla which is also shorter. Like *Erica turrisbabylonica*, described above, which has a near relative growing on Klein River Mts. nearby, *Erica aristata* grows in abundance on that range. In both instances, however, the flowering seasons are widely different i.e. spring on the Klein River Mts. and mid-summer to early autumn on Babylon's Tower.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The author wishes to thank Dr. L. Vogelpoel and Dr. W. P. U. Jackson for their assistance in obtaining living material and also the Curators of the Bolus and Compton Herbaria for allowing him to study material in their collections and for professional assistance from their staff.

NOTE ON THE VALIDITY OF *ERICA IONII*

Erica ionii H. A. Baker in Jl S. Afr. Bot. **31:** 148 (1963) is now recognised by the author as being synonymous with *E. manifesta* Compton in Jl S. Afr. Bot. **1:** 37 (1935).

THE CORRECT APPLICATION OF THE NAME *TEPHROSIA DIFFUSA*

J. B. Gillett
(*East African Herbarium*)

Tephrosia meyerana *Gillett* nom. nov.
Basionym. *Apodynomene diffusa* E. Mey., Comm. Pl. Afr. Aust. 113 (1836)
Tephrosia diffusa (E. Mey.) Harv. in Fl. Cap. 2: 210 (1861–2); H.M.L. Forbes in Bothalia 4: 1000 (1948) et auct. plur., non *T. diffusa* (Roxb.) Wight & Arn. in Wight Cat. 54 (1833); Prodr. Fl. Pen. Ind. Or. 1: 213 (1834).

The name proposed is in honour of E. Meyer, the first botanist to describe this interesting species.